

# Weatherford Telegram

Web Search powered by YAHOO! SEARCH

News Obituaries Sports Business Living Opinions Cars Homes Classifieds Jobs Shopping



**SEE WHAT GOES ON**  
*behind the smoke and mirrors*  
★ TOUR COWBOYS STADIUM ★

**CLICK HERE FOR COWBOYS PRACTICE INFORMATION**



Home > Sports

Connect with us on Twitter

## SPORTS

RSS Mobile Newsletters MY YAHOO!

### Roos to open season Friday at home

Posted Friday, Aug. 19, 2011 0 Comments Print Reprints

Share

Topics: Texas

ARTICLE PHOTOS (1) COMMENTS

BY MELISSA WINN  
mwinn@star-telegram.com

Of all the things Weatherford head football coach Reid Waller did in the offseason -- and there were many -- sitting down with every parent of his 2011 varsity squad was the most significant.

The reason?

"It was very, very, very enlightening," Waller said. " We met with every parent, face-to-face, and conveyed our mission, our game plan, what we've got to have out of our kids and what we've got to have out of that parent."

For Waller, that conversation was important as he works toward making the Kangaroos football team a family-like entity.

"We have a good family atmosphere, probably the best I've ever had," Waller said.

But as is often the case with families, sometimes the close confines of home can be too close. However, Waller thinks it's a good thing.

"A lot of it is building relationships with the kids," he said. "I'm at the point with the kids that I've earned the right to coach them hard and get after them and they understand why it is. Whenever I'm getting after them and coaching them hard it's not that I'm criticizing them personally and I think they understand that."

Waller "family" has spent the past two and a half weeks preparing for Friday's home opener against Haltom. And he said he's happy with the group he's got and what he's seen so far.

"When you get a group like we have right now, I could coach them 20 hours a day," he said. "They're not perfect and when they're not, I handle things the way I do but they accept me the way I handle it. They usually try to diffuse me a little bit but thus far, they're the most fun group I've coached."

One of the biggest changes for this year's campaign is the installation of a new "wide-open" offense.

"It's been an amazing thing with the way [the players have] adjusted and jumped right on it," he said. "We'll have the ability to throw the ball more; more formations to throw out of. We'll still going to triple option, we're still going to double option but we have the ability to throw the screens and run the draws. There's more to it.

"Even adding those things, though, I feel like it's been pretty simple to install."

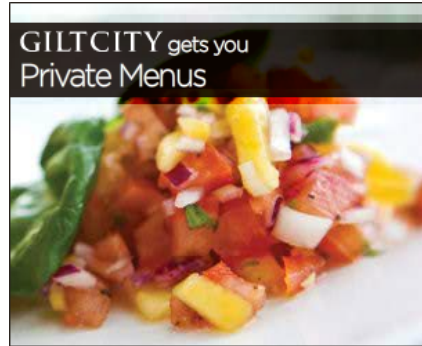
Another change that happened last week is the fact that senior Trooper Reynolds decided to forgo football this fall so he could concentrate solely on basketball. While some may worry that could cause a problem for Weatherford, Waller said he isn't concerned at all.

"We worked all spring long with Colton Mallory and Steven Pitts and they've done a really good job," Waller said. "We even worked Jake Bartels there some too. All three of them offer something...it's a pretty competitive little spot right there.



View photos

Weatherford vs. Haltom  
Friday, 7:30 p.m.  
Kangaroo Stadium



Other favorites: Cowboys Rangers Mavs Stars TCU UT A&M Tech



#### MOST POPULAR

- Cattle truck overturns on I-20; some cattle put down after injuries
- Heat wave claims another record -- high of 107
- Mitch Moreland delivers wake-up call for Texas Rangers
- Arson suspected as cause of fire that destroyed 343 acres
- Burglary suspect dies after Fort Worth homeowners use chokehold



Beautiful Custom Painting  
Interior & Exterior Texture,  
Faux, Popcorn Removal. 817-500-2605



Need A Car?

"Steven and Colton have been there all spring; you can tell it's beginning to get comfortable with them. Both of them have different things to bring to the table but they're really executing. They're understanding the offense pretty well."

Waller added that he hadn't decided to lean more one way or the other on naming a starter and that he's going to "let things play out."

"Competition makes all of us better," he said "They're three great kids and they'll do well."

Defensively, Waller said there are some tweaks that need to be made here and there but that, overall, it's been good. He did say, though, that Weatherford has been practicing a little bit differently than its ever done before.

"We're throwing ones against ones," he said. "[When you do that], you're going to have some bangs and bruises and twists.

"The way I look at that is, on Fridays, you're going to go against ones so you may as well do it now."

**Gauging success**

This is the second year for Weatherford to compete in District 4-5A, a notably difficult district with five tough Arlington schools and perennial NFL-quality players.

But Waller said he feels his squad can play with the best of them, nothing that last year's JV team won a majority of the district games.

And with the varsity players having one more year under their belts, Waller said, he's looking at this season as an opportunity.

"Our biggest issue is we played with eight sophomores last year and they were playing with people two years older than them," he said. "That's a hard deal. Four of the five offensive linemen are juniors now, which means they were sophomores last year so that's a major adjustment that the year before they were playing ninth-graders and all of a sudden, bam, it's a lot faster gig we're playing and they're eyes were huge."

When asked what he would consider a successful season, Waller said he has three goals set up in the locker room. The No. 1 goal is to make the playoffs.

"I'm not going to talk about not making the playoffs," Waller said confidently. "No matter how it happens or how it fits, we're going to make the playoffs."

The next two goals, he said, are to win that first playoff game and then to be playing or practicing the week of Thanksgiving.

"When those things happens, you're in an elite group," Waller said. "If you make the playoffs, if you win that first one, anything can happen.

Melissa Winn, 817-594-9902, ext. 104

[Looking for comments?](#)



**Got bad credit? At Star-Cars  
DFW Your Credit is No Problem!  
Click Here!**



**Ameripride Roofing  
Excellent Customer Service &  
Quality. Click Here For Our  
Website!**

**David's Tree Service  
David's Tree Service, David Bland Owner 817  
-706-9965. Insured/2M Police**



**Farmer Jon's Custom Stone  
Quality Work! Click Here to Visit  
Our Website! 817-371-8045**



**Find us on  
Facebook**

- [Dove® Cares About You](#)  
Tips To Boost Your Self Esteem & Make A Difference In Life. Try Now!  
www.Dove.us
- [Compare Interest Rates](#)  
CDs, Money Market, US Rate Tables, Plus Tips & Articles from Bankrate  
www.Bankrate.com
- [Best Money Markets 2011](#)  
Top money markets for USA. Best rates guaranteed.  
banktruth.org/Best

Ads by Yahoo!

[TERMS OF SERVICE](#) [PRIVACY POLICY](#) [ABOUT OUR ADS](#) [COPYRIGHT](#) [CONTACT US](#) [ADVERTISE WITH US](#) [REPORT A PROBLEM](#) [ABOUT THE MCCLATCHY COMPANY](#)